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### Upcoming event

- 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Women: Activeness, Entrepreneurship, Independence
- International Conference "Gender Equality in the Workplace - Learn from the Best!"

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Dear KARAT News Readers !

*This issue of KARAT News covers two summer months July and August. I would like to draw your attention to the information about the further involvement of CSO in development effectiveness and the NGOs' expectations toward the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women.*

*I also encourage you to visit KARAT's new website and to post your news on KARAT's Facebook profile. Remember also that I am always looking forward to receiving your news. Let all the KARAT members know what happens in your country in relation to women's issues. Please send me a short paragraph by the end of each month.*

*Have a nice reading !*  
Agnieszka Walko-Mazurek, KARAT Networking Officer

## What's new in KARAT

### CPDE: CSO partnership for development effectiveness

After the [HLF on Aid Effectiveness in Busan](#) in December 2011, civil society organizations continue their work focused on development effectiveness. Two main platforms involved in this process: [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) and the [BetterAid](#) decided to merge, and establish the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). The new structure and strategy are developed through the regional and sectorial consultations.

The European consultations took place in Belgrade on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2012. It was joined by 34 participants from 23 European countries (EU and non-EU) and from regional and global organizations, including KARAT. The participants discussed and proposed a number of improvements to the draft of the CPDE paper, defining the structure, strategy and ways of work of the new body. It was agreed that the document should be shorter and less bureaucratic to make it clearer for large constituency. It was stressed that there must be a better balance between the advocacy work of CPDE and the emphasis on the CSOs development effectiveness.

The participants also agreed that the members of future CPDE must agree with the [Istanbul Principles](#) including the Principle 2: Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' rights. They should also support the [Key Asks](#) agreed by CSO Open Forum and Better Aid. The European group proposed to have 3 sub-regions and further consultations on CPDE will take place also in sub-regional groups. At the end of consultations, the group selected Justin Kilcullen as CPDE representative of the European region.

More information and relevant publications: [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) and [BetterAid](#)

For more information about KARAT's involvement please contact Joanna Szabunko at: [joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl)

### New website: Women and development

KARAT has launched a new website: [www.womenanddevelopment.org](http://www.womenanddevelopment.org) dedicated to the problem of feminization of poverty, the role of women in social and economical development, the importance of gender equality perspective in development policies and its role in overcoming stereotypes in the context of developing countries.

We hope that apart from being a good source of information this website will also be the platform to present materials on these subjects from other organizations and institutions, as well as from individuals (like trainers and educators). We, therefore, encourage you to be in touch with us and send your materials to the website coordinator at: [joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl)



The website has been developed within two projects implemented by KARAT: [Through Their Eyes, Through Ours](#) and [Connect!](#)

### Summer - a time of changes

We would like to announce that KARAT Secretariat has moved to a new office. This was done due to the significant reduction of our budget for office rent. Packing and moving was a really hard work but eventually, after a week of struggling with cardboard boxes we are back at work. At the same time our Secretariat's team has got smaller since two of our colleagues Marta Gontarska who was responsible for Gender and Development program and Daria Suwala who worked within Women's Human Rights program have left KARAT. We would like to take this opportunity

to thank them once again for their great contribution and commitment to KARAT over the years they work for the Secretariat. The years dedicated to KARAT are particularly impressive in case of Marta. We wish them all the best in their careers. If you have any questions concerning the projects conducted by Marta or Daria please contact Joanna Szabunko at: [joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl) or Aleksandra Solik at: [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

The address of our new office you can find on our website <http://www.karat.org/contact/>

## **Members' News**

### **Czech: A step forward for better gender equality in a workplace**

Nearly two hundred people attended a series of National Network Meetings to talk about gender equality implementation in the workplace (e.g. equal salaries or work-life balance). The meetings were held across six European countries – Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, Austria, UK and Lithuania from May to July 2012 as a part of the [GeCo Project](#) implemented by the institutions that provide guidance and award schemes for equality, including the [Gender Studies](#), a KARAT member.

The meetings' participants learnt about the new GeCo European Gender Equality [E-toolkit](#) which contains concrete, practical examples of gender equality measures which have been implemented in organizations across Europe. The E-toolkit is an innovative self-learning instrument that describes examples and change processes in detail, in order to assist, inspire, and motivate decision makers to improve gender quality in their own organizations. Most of the participants, HR Practitioners and Leaders with experience in the field of gender equality, have found the E-toolkit very useful in implementing gender equality practices in their workplaces.

The final international conference "Gender Equality in the Workplace" will be held in Athens on 13 September 2012 where the distinguished keynote speakers and renowned international figures from academia, industry and European institutions will offer their insights and ideas on the field of promoting gender equality in the workplace.

To learn more about the coming conference see the [GeCo Project's Newsletter](#)

For more information please contact Anna Kotková at: [office@genderstudies.cz](mailto:office@genderstudies.cz)

### **Kazakhstan: Equality before the law: access to justice of vulnerable groups**

In Kazakhstan the women, children and people with disabilities whose rights are violated will be provided with better access to justice thanks to an educational and information campaign which has just started. [The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives of "Sana Sezim"](#) which implements the project, hopes that the campaign will increase the level of legal awareness of these vulnerable groups related to their rights and the mechanisms of their protection. The project's educational activities also target the law enforcement representatives and judicial executive organs in order to increase the legal quality in assistance to women, children and people with disabilities as well as to strengthen equality principles.

The campaign is supported by 12 lawyers who will offer their legal assistance and develop a network support for civil society organizations in providing legal and advocacy assistance to vulnerable groups to protect their rights and interests.

For more information please contact Shakhnoza Khassanova at: [ngosanasezim@rambler.ru](mailto:ngosanasezim@rambler.ru)

## Uzbekistan: NGOs' Coalition to stop domestic violence

On 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 NGO “Istiqbolli Avlod” in Djizak, Uzbekistan conducted a round table as a follow up of the KARAT initiative “Women’s NGO Coalition on CEDAW and women’s access to justice”. Among the round table participants were NGOs from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, lawyers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, National Association of Uzbek NGOs, deputies of district and regional councils, mass media representatives, public health and social protection representatives.



The participants debated on the implementation of recommendations of the CEDAW Committee regarding combating domestic violence and options for effective legislative solutions to address the problem of domestic violence in Uzbekistan. They agreed that the current legislation does not protect women from domestic violence since there are no effective mechanisms to prevent and combat domestic violence and to address its effects.

Further, the round table participants defined a policy on addressing problems related to violence against women and created a Coalition aimed at strengthening the role of NGOs in preventing and combating domestic violence in Uzbekistan. The Coalition is also going to promote ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and develop an alternative report to the CEDAW Committee.

The problem of domestic violence in Uzbekistan is grave. Forty per cent of all serious violent crimes are committed within a family and each year more than 14,000 women die at the hands of their husbands or other relatives.

For more information please contact Liliya Khamzayeva at: [lhamzayeva@mail.ru](mailto:lhamzayeva@mail.ru)

## Romania: Balkan Women Coalition will support women’s businesses

Over fifty women entrepreneurs and women association managers from 6 countries in the Balkan region (Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) gathered together in Bucharest, Romania on June 12-15, 2012 to discuss the issues of women entrepreneurship, advocacy and coalition building.



The participants of this international workshop presented the best practices of women entrepreneurship in their own countries, the types of support programs and resources available to women entrepreneurs and the challenges faced by women who want to start a business in each country. The women associations and NGOs shared their specific experiences in the field of advocacy and awareness raising campaigns. The representatives of women business associations in the Balkans spoke about the level of participation of women entrepreneurs in shaping the public policies in their country.

Finally, the participants developed a mission and a set of goals for the new Balkan Women Coalition. The Coalition's mission is "to support, promote and develop women entrepreneurship, cooperation and lifelong learning in the Balkans". The participants also agreed on the Coalition's promotional activities and its cooperation with public officials and other civil society organizations.

For more information please contact Daniela Albu at: [andradacia@yahoo.com](mailto:andradacia@yahoo.com)

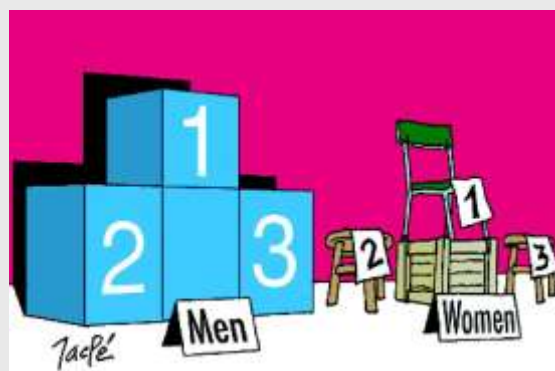
Sources: [Information Bulletin of Women's Association of Romania](#), [Community of women entrepreneurs](#)

## European Union

### Olympic Games and gender discrimination

From 27<sup>th</sup> of July to 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 the eyes of the world were fixed on the biggest international sport event – the Olympic Games. According to the Olympic Charter „any form of discrimination (including gender) is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement” but the reality seems to be quite different.

To raise public awareness on the lack of concrete equality between women and men at various levels of the Olympics the collective of NGOs "Justice for Women" organized a protest on July 25<sup>th</sup> where the NGOs delivered the [7 demands](#) to each member of the Olympic Movement. The demands included a parity in all sports, Olympic events and decision-making bodies, same recognition to women as to men champions and exclusion of all delegations wearing political and/or religious symbols.



However, the London 2012 Olympics showed many examples of gender discriminations which were justified or ignored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). For example there were 30 events less for women than for men, therefore, so many less medals, there were almost 20 delegations with women wearing Islamic costumes in contradiction to the sports neutrality required by the Olympic Charter, and on the other hand there were sport disciplines, such as a beach volleyball where women played almost naked. Moreover, women are still a small minority in the governing bodies of the Olympic Movement.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN Women Executive Director has published an article in El Pais claiming that, although more gender equality have been achieved at the London Olympic Games compared to previous editions, gender inequalities have been still present. In her article, Ms. Bachelet reports a series of discriminatory and sexist practices that came up during the Olympics and that have to be tackled, as for example: gender stereotypes regarding clothes, sex discrimination on flight class fares in the trip of several country delegations, the gender pay gap, the press coverage and different treatment, the level of private funding, etc.

So far, the IOC response to the gender discrimination problem was its boast with the statistics showing an increase of women's participation, with 45% as compared to 42% at the Beijing Games in 2008, no delegation without women, while in Beijing, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei had none, and access for women to all sports.

Source: [EWL](#), London 2012:Justice for Women [photo]

## World

### Women NGOs formulate their conditions for the 5<sup>th</sup> WCW

After months of [consultations](#) more than 50 women's rights groups and NGOs from across the world have come to conclusion regarding the proposal to have a 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women (WCW) or other commemoration of Beijing+20 in 2015.

In [a draft resolution](#) the women's rights groups and NGOs stress that the 5<sup>th</sup> WCW should make the UN Member States reaffirm their commitments to the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It should also build political commitment to all other UN Resolutions and Agreements that aim at achieving gender equality, women's equal participation in decision-making, implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security- particularly 1325 and 1820.

The NGOs emphasize that there should not be any inter-governmental negotiations concerning implementation of these documents in the process of mobilizing political will and financial resources needed for their full implementation. They also propose that the commemoration of Beijing+20 takes place at the UN 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly in 2015 that will be fully inclusive of civil society, particularly women's organizations and other NGOs that work for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Source: [GEAR](#)

### Traditional values as a part of human rights: are the women's rights at risk?

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2012, during its 9<sup>th</sup> session, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee debated on promoting human rights through a better understanding of traditional values of human kind. The debate stirred emotions as in some countries the traditional values are responsible for human rights violations and making a link between these two might result in a serious backlash on women's rights\*.

The session resulted in [a preliminary study](#) on the issue which recognizes a variety and complexity of traditions and admits that while some traditions go along with human rights norms, others are in conflict with or undermine them. The study mentions the negative impact of traditional values on women and minority groups (paragraph 39) and the fact that cultural relativism is often used as an excuse to justify violence against women (paragraph 42).

However, the risk of backlash is still present as for example, the Russian delegation opposed the paragraph 32 which mentions that "diverse traditional values are at the root of universal human rights, but some have played a role to justify subordination and minority groups in the world".

The final study on the linkage between traditional values and human rights will be adopted by the Human Rights Council during its next session in September 2012.

\*To see how the traditional values negatively influence women's lives in our Region read the KARAT's factsheet "[Women's access to justice in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)" and the [national reports](#) on women's access to justice in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Source: [EWL](#)

## Resources

### **AidWatch Report 2012: Aid We Can: more investment in global development**

The deadline to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws near and critical global objectives of poverty eradication are still to be met. In 2005 the EU and its Member States committed to collectively provide 0,7% of their Gross National Income in aid by 2015 to support the achievement of the MDGs. The EU remains the world's aid champion, but in 2011 the EU delivered significantly less aid than in 2010 and it also lowered the proportion of its aid that was spent on development activities. This situation threatens to undermine the EU's status as the largest provider of aid.

Download the report from [here](#)

### **UN: Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.**

The report provides a review of the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly. In particular, the report focuses on the extent to which gender perspectives are reflected in selected intergovernmental processes of the United Nations. The report concludes with recommendations for further measures to enhance the implementation of gender equality mandates.

Read the UN Secretary- General's report [here](#)

### **UN Women: Progress of the World's Women: In pursuit of justice**

The past century has seen a transformation in women's legal rights, with countries in every region expanding the scope of women's legal entitlements. Nevertheless for most of the world's women, the laws that exist on paper do not translate to equality and justice. *Progress of the World's Women* shows that well-functioning legal and justice systems can be a vital mechanism for women to achieve their rights. They can shape society by providing accountability, by stopping the abuse of power and by creating new norms. The courts have been a critical site of accountability for individual women to claim rights and to set legal precedents that have benefitted millions of others.

Download the report from [here](#)

### **Center for Reproductive Rights: Whose right to life? Women's rights and prenatal protections under Human Rights and Comparative Law**

The right to life is a fundamental human right, central to the enjoyment of all other human rights. International human rights law recognizes this basic right as accruing at birth, and international and regional human rights bodies, as well as courts worldwide, have clearly established that any prenatal protections must be consistent with women's human rights.

Download the toolkit from [here](#)

## Upcoming events

### **4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Women: Activeness, Entrepreneurship, Independence**

The Congress of Women came about in 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the political and economic transformation in Poland. The goal is to shed light on the vast contribution of women to the social, civic and economic transformations, emphasizing women's role in the building of modern Poland. The Congress gives the women a forum for sharing

their experiences, finding inspiration, and gaining motivation. Without such a platform, effective cooperation beyond political, ideological, and social boundaries would indeed be hard to achieve.

Time: 14 – 15 September 2012

Place: Poland, Warsaw, the Palace of Culture and Science

Cost: The participation is free of charge but you must register [here](#)

For the detailed program and other information see [the brochure](#) in English

### **International Conference "Gender Equality in the Workplace - Learn from the Best!"**

The conference is organized by ALBA Graduate Business School at The American College of Greece as part of the GECO Project. Distinguished keynote speakers and renowned international figures from academia, industry and European institutions will offer their insights and ideas on the field of promoting gender equality in the workplace.

Time: 13 September 2012.

Place: Greece, Athens Royal Olympic Hotel (28-34 Athanasiou Diakou Str, [www.royalolympic.com](http://www.royalolympic.com))

Cost: The participation is free of charge.

The Conference will be a half day English language event, held at. For more details (program, speakers, participation form) please visit [www.gender-competence.eu](http://www.gender-competence.eu).

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### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

KARAT Secretariat would like to sincerely thank the following for their contributions to the News (forwarding information and providing us with 'original' information): Gender Studies (Czech Republic), The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives of "Sana Sezim" (Kazakhstan), Istiqbolli Avlod (Uzbekistan), Women's Association of Romania, EWL, GEAR, AWID, Justice for Women.

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